

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A machine-implemented method comprising:

discovering information relating to an accessibility state of one or more communication channels associated with a specific message recipient, wherein at least one of the communication channels is a bridged connection including at least one bridging device and a recipient device, and wherein the discovering information comprises interrogating at least one bridging device regarding the availability of a recipient device;

maintaining a data repository comprising the accessibility state information discovered by said discovering and user preferences relating to user preferred message routing paths;

storing user schedule information that defines a user schedule in the data repository; and

routing a message addressed to the specific message recipient ~~at least one bridging device~~ to the message recipient ~~via the at least one bridging device~~ based on information in the data repository by using an intelligent routing decision that is based on a context appropriate level of intrusiveness determined

from a user's schedule at the time of the routing, based on the user schedule information.

2-5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the accessibility state information discovered by said discovering includes information relating to whether the recipient is reachable via a communications channel.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the accessibility state information discovered by said discovering includes information relating to whether the recipient is available via a communications channel.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein routing the message also comprises choosing one or more communications channels associated with the message recipient such that at least one of the following conditions is met: the message is likely to reach the message recipient, the message is likely to reach the message recipient in a timely manner, ~~or the~~

~~message is likely to reach the message recipient at a context-appropriate level of obtrusiveness.~~

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein discovering information comprises receiving information from a communications service provider relating to at least one of the message recipient's communications status or activity.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein discovering information comprises receiving information from the message recipient relating to the message recipient's communications status.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a capability for a machine to receive from a message sender a device-independent identifier uniquely identifying the message recipient.

13. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage medium, having machine-readable instructions for causing the machine to perform operations comprising:

discover information relating to an accessibility state of one or more communication channels associated with a specific message recipient, wherein at least one of the communication

channels is bridged connection including at least one bridging device and a recipient device, and wherein the discovering information comprises interrogating at least one bridging device regarding the availability of a recipient device;

maintain a data repository comprising the accessibility state information discovered by said discover information operation and user preferences relating to user preferred message routing paths;

store user schedule information that defines a user schedule in the data repository; and

route a message addressed to the specific message recipient ~~at least one bridging device~~ to the message recipient ~~via the at least one bridging device~~ based on information in the data repository by using an intelligent routing decision that is based on a context appropriate level of intrusiveness determined from a user's schedule at the time of the routing, based on the user schedule information.

14-16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously Presented) The instructions of claim 13 wherein the accessibility state information discovered by said discover information operation includes information relating to whether the recipient is reachable via a communications channel.

18. (Previously Presented) The instructions of claim 13 wherein the accessibility state information discovered by said discover information operation includes information relating to whether the recipient is available via a communications channel.

19. (Canceled).

20. (Currently amended) The instructions of claim 13 wherein the instructions to route the message also comprise instructions to choose one or more communications channels associated with the message recipient such that at least one the following conditions is met: or the message is likely to reach the message recipient the message is likely to reach the message recipient in a timely manner, ~~or the message is likely to reach the message recipient at a context appropriate level of obtrusiveness.~~

21. (Previously Presented) The instructions of claim 13 wherein the instructions to discover information comprise instructions to receive information from a communications service provider relating to at least one of the message recipient's communications status or activity.

22. (Original) The instructions of claim 13 wherein the instructions to discover information comprise instructions to receive information from the message recipient relating to the message recipient's communications status.

23. (Original) The instructions of claim 13 further comprising instructions to receive from a message sender a device-independent identifier uniquely identifying the message recipient.

24. (Currently amended) A message-routing system comprising:

one or more discovery processes configured to discover information relating to an accessibility state of one or more communication channels associated with a specific message recipient who is specifically identified in a message, wherein at least one of the communication channels is a bridged connection including at least one bridging device and a recipient device, and wherein the discovering information comprises interrogating at least one bridging device regarding the availability of a recipient device;

a data repository configured to store the accessibility state information discovered by said one or more discovery processes and user preferences relating to user preferred

message routing paths, said data repository also configured to store user schedule information that defines a user schedule;
and

a message routing decision process configured to route the message addressed to the at least one bridging device to the message recipient using an intelligent routing decision that is based on a context appropriate level of intrusiveness determined from a user's schedule at a time of the routing based on the user schedule information ~~via the bridging device based on information in the data repository.~~

25-27. (Canceled).

28. (Currently amended) The system of claim 24 wherein the message routing decision process is also configured to choose one or more communications channels associated with the message recipient such that at least one the following conditions is met: the message is likely to reach the message recipient, or the message is likely to reach the message recipient in a timely manner, ~~or the message is likely to reach the message recipient at a context-appropriate level of obtrusiveness.~~

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24 wherein the one or more discovery processes are configured to receive

information from at least one of a communications service provider or from the message recipient relating to at least one of the message recipient's communications status or activity.

30-36. (Canceled).

37. (Currently amended) A machine-implemented method comprising:

discovering information relating to an accessibility state of one or more communication channels associated with a specific message recipient, wherein one or more of the communication channels is a bridged connection including at least one bridging device and a recipient device, ~~and wherein the discovering information comprises interrogating at least one bridging device regarding the availability of the recipient device;~~

maintaining a data repository comprising the accessibility state information discovered by said discovering;

storing user schedule information that defines a user schedule in the data repository; and

routing a message addressed to the at least one bridging device to the message recipient through the at least one bridging device to the recipient device based on information in the data repository by using an intelligent routing decision that is based on a context appropriate level of intrusiveness

determined from a user's schedule at a time of the routing,
based on the user schedule information.

38-40. (Canceled).

41. (Currently amended) A message-routing system
comprising:

a reception unit configured to receive a device-independent
identifier uniquely identifying a specific message recipient;

one or more discovery processes configured to discover
information relating to an accessibility state of one or more
communication channels associated with the message recipient,
~~wherein one or more of the communication channels is a bridged
connection including at least one bridging device and a
recipient device, and wherein the discovering information
comprises interrogating at least one bridging device regarding
the availability of a recipient device;~~

a data repository configured to store the accessibility
state information discovered by said one or more discovery
processes, said data repository also configured to store user
schedule information that defines a user schedule in the data
repository; and

a message routing decision process configured to route a
message ~~addressed to the at least one bridging device~~ to the

message recipient by using an intelligent routing decision that is based on a context appropriate level of intrusiveness determined from a user's schedule at the time of the routing, based on the user scheduling information ~~via the at least one bridging device based on information in the data repository.~~

42. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein said accessibility state of one or more communication channels also includes interrogating at least an accessibility of each of a cellular phone, and an Internet based communication system.

43. (Previously presented) A method as in claim 1, further comprising, prior to said discovering, forming a message that includes a device Independent identifier that uniquely identifies a specific recipient of the message, and using said identifier for said interrogating.